

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06695 291800Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: AGRARIAN REFORM REVISION

PROCEEDS SMOOTHLY

REF: (A) LISBON 6659 (DTG 281715Z SEP 76), (B) LISBON 6427

(DTG 201535Z SEP 76)

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT RETURNED ADDITIONAL PROPERTY
IN THE ALENTEJO AND SANTAREM SEPT 28 WITHOUT INCIDENT
OR THE NEED FOR SECURITY FORCES. FAR LEFT DEMONSTRATORS
IN LISBON SEPT 28 STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING FOR
RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO END AGRARIAN
REFORM ABUSES. END SUMMARY.

1. LAND RETURNED WITHOUT INCIDENT: THE GOVERNMENT
RETURNED THREE PROPERTIES IN THE DISTRICT OF SANTAREM
AND FOUR IN EVORA SEPT 28 WITHOUT INCIDENT OR NEED

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PAGE 02 LISBON 06695 291800Z

FOR SECURITY FORCES (REF A). AGREEMENT WAS REACHED
WITH RURAL WORKERS TO RETURN SEVEN PROPERTIES IN

BEJA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT, BY
DISTRIBUTING PREVIOUSLY NATIONALIZED LAND IN
SANTAREM SEPT 28, DEMONSTRATED ITS DETERMINATION
NOT TO HALT THE PROCESS OF LEGAL AGRARIAN REFORM.

2. LIGHTS OUT ON GDUP: FAR LEFT POPULAR UNIT GROUPS (GDUP)
WERE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE ONLY ONE THOUSAND IN
LISBON AND SEVERAL HUNDRED IN OPORTO FOR RALLIES
TO COMMEMORATE THE SEPT 28, 1974 LEFTIST MOBILIZATION
WHICH BLOCKED SPINOLA'S ABORTIVE "SILENT MAJORITY" DEMONSTRATION.
THE WOULD-BE DEMONSTRATORS GOT A TASTE OF AUSTERITY
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS IN
THE SQUARE WHERE THE MEETING WAS HELD. THE PCP REFRAINED
FROM ANY COMMEMORATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS DESPITE ITS
PROMINENT ROLE IN THE 1974 ACTION.

3. BACK TO BASICS FOR THE PU: SPOKESMAN FOR
THE COMMUNIST "PEOPLE UNITED ELECTION FRONT" (PU),
IN A SEPT 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID PU WAS OPEN TO
ALL PARTIES, CANDIDATES, AND ORGANIZATIONS (REF B).
THE PU WILL PRESENT ITS OWN LISTS FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS
OR SUPPORT UNITARY LISTS DEPENDING ON LOCAL CONDITIONS.
PCP LEADER CARLOS COSTA SOUGHT TO SIMPLIFY
THE CHOICE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS BY DIVIDING
LOCAL LEADERS INTO THOSE WHO HAD SUPPORTED THE
SALAZAR REGIME AND THOSE WHO HAD OPPOSED -- WITH
THE PCP ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS. IN ADDITION
TO PCP LEADERS CARLOS COSTA, SILVA GRACA, VEIGA
DE OLIVEIRA, AND JAIME SERRA, THE PU NATIONAL
COMMITTEE INCLUDES FELLOW-TRAVELLING MDP LEADER
JOSE TENGARRINHA, COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZING STAGE PERFORMERS
LUIS MONTEIRO AND CARLOS DO CARMO, AND
COMMUNIST-INCLINED UNIVERSITY OF OPORTO RECTOR
RUI LUIS GOMES.

4. COMMENT: GDUP SPEAKERS IN THE SEPT 28 LISBON
RALLY ASKED WORKERS TO JOIN RURAL WORKERS IN DEFENSE
OF AGRARIAN REFORM, BUT STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING
FOR VIOLENT RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CORRECT
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PAGE 03 LISBON 06695 291800Z

AGRARIAN REFORM ABUSES.
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